

The meaning remains the same. My object is to improve the language of the provision.

RAO BAHADUR A. VENKATARAMA AIYAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): I would suggest that the expression "*and in the order laid down by*" may be omitted, because the expression "*according to the rules of Mahomedan law*" would indicate the order prescribed by Mahomedan law.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I also thought of it; but on further consideration I decided that the expression "*and in the order laid down by*" may be retained with advantage. Because, in the absence of those words, if the provision merely says ".....shall devolve upon the heirs *according to the rules of Mahomedan law*" it might be interpreted to mean that the property should devolve on the heirs according to the present law and that the order alone, among them, need be according to Mahomedan law. It is to avoid that interpretation being put upon it, to make it quite clear, to avoid ambiguity, that I decided that that expression might be allowed to remain. It only makes the provision more specific and clear.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I second it.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): I accept the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 3, as amended, do form part of the Bill.

The motion was carried and the clause was added to the Bill.

The question that the Preamble to the Bill do form part of the Bill was then put and carried.

The Preamble was added to the Bill.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഇപ്പോൾ വരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള ഭേദഗതിസംഹിത ഈ ബിൽ ഇനിയൊരു യോഗത്തിൽ പാസാക്കണമെന്ന ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. MAHOMED MUSTAPHA (*Commerce and Industry, South*): ഞാൻ ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

The motion was carried.

THE TRAVANCORE NAYAR REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

The following motion was not moved by Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai:
To introduce the Travancore Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

RESOLUTION *re* REMISSION OF LAND TAX—(*contd.*)

PRESIDENT: The next business on the agenda for to-day is the resolution by Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan to the effect that:

"This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the present economic depression, 50 per cent. of the land revenue for 1107 be remitted".

This House has partly discussed this resolution at its last meeting and it is now open for discussion by those members who have not already spoken on it.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, several members have spoken on this subject at the last meeting of the Council. I want the members to consider how serious this resolution is and what drastic effects it would have if it is carried through. The resolution is to the effect that 50 per cent. of the land revenue for 1107 should practically be abandoned. This amounts to about nineteen lakhs of rupees. As we all know, at present, we are passing through a very difficult time of economic depression; and it is up to every one of us and to every one in the country to come to the help of Government and to do everything we can to help them through in this crisis. We must all look upon the Travancore State as a *tarwad* with the Government as its *karanavan*.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Who are the officers in that *tarwad*?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They are all different members of the *tarwad*, adopted and otherwise.

Sir, in a *tarwad*, when there are difficult times, all the members join together and help the *tarwad* through. I think it is the duty of everybody to put the country first and to come to the help of Government in difficult times like this.

Government are fully aware and are in full sympathy with the people in their difficulties. But, at the same time, it has to be realised that 42 per cent. of the people pay a land revenue of only a rupee and less.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): But how many of the people pay land revenue?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think that question arises in connection with the resolution now before us. I have not got the total number of *pattadars* in the State, now before me.

Sir, tax amounting to less than a rupee or even a rupee cannot be considered to be very heavy. And, the Government, here, have done all they can—much more than any other Government (I say that boldly)—for the good of the people. They have managed to avoid any new tax to meet the deficit due to the economic depression. In the case of those who paid their *Medam kist* of 1106 before the end of the year, no demand notice fees were to be recovered. The Tahsildars gave extension of time for the payment of *kist* till the end of the year in deserving cases.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neducangad*): When was that order issued, and for how many days was it in force?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It was issued in 1931; I am not sure of the date.

And then, Government postponed, until further orders, the realisation of land tax by taking coercive steps. They reduced the tax

on rubber lands from Rs. 2 to Re. 1 per acre in all cases in which the tax was leviable at the former rate. They granted extension of time, in deserving cases, for the repayment of agricultural loans. They also granted similar extension of time for the repayment of *taravila*. They reduced the license fees on all small *vallams* in order to help the poor fishermen. They reduced the tariff values on several articles, mostly the products of the coconut palm. They started a Land Mortgage Bank in order to help the people through these difficult times.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know whether any amount has been advanced till now by that Bank?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not in the Bank.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know anything about it?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member know whether the establishment of that Bank has done any good to the people till now?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): As I said I am not in the Bank.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is the member in a position to tell us what advantage the people have derived from it so far?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The people have been agitating for it; and it has been started with Government help. It is hoped that it would be of great help to the people.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has any money been advanced by the Bank so far?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I know nothing about it. Perhaps, the member knows more about it than I.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): So, really, it is not a boon to the people, so to speak?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is a matter of opinion. The member does not consider it a boon. It may be a real boon to others.

Therefore, Sir, Government have done all they practically can; and, as I said, they have done more than any other Government in this time of great economic distress.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has the member compared the relief measures adopted here with those adopted by other Governments?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Other Governments have practically done nothing, I know. I should be glad to hear of it from the members. I challenged the House on another occasion on this matter, but could not get an answer then.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is the member aware that the Government of the United Provinces have remitted a portion of the tax?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not aware of that.

Sir, as I have already pointed out, if this drastic resolution is carried, it would mean that the Government would have to abandon nineteen lakhs of rupees. It has been pointed out by the Chief Secretary on the last occasion that there is a deficit of about fifteen or twenty lakhs of rupees; and if this resolution were to add another nineteen lakhs it would make the State *tarwad* absolutely helpless. It has also to be borne in mind that, out of the land revenue, we have to pay sixteen lakhs of rupees to the Devaswom fund. There is therefore very little left to carry on the Administration. I may also draw the attention of the House to the fact that land revenue is the one stable income that any Government can depend upon; and, if you are going to cut that away, you are, I daresay, going to ruin Travancore. You are going to make it extremely difficult for the Government to carry on the Administration. Every day, in this Council and in the Assembly, the people are clamouring for more works of public utility. Even to-day there is the resolution for providing elevated places in the Kuttanad area. Several of the important works which the Government proposed to carry out for the good of the people would have to be dropped if this resolution is carried.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): What is the total amount, granted year after year, under seasonal remissions?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the figures with me now.

I may also draw the attention of the House to the fact that the prices of agricultural products have not gone below the prices which obtained at the time of the last Settlement when the present rates of assessment were fixed with reference to the prices. We also now find that the prices are really going up, for instance, the prices of cocoanut products. So, times are really becoming better.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Has not the standard of life of the people increased since the last Settlement?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The people should adjust their standard of living to the economic condition of the times.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is the member willing to accept the resolution if the percentage of remission is reduced to twenty-five?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot understand anybody suggesting any reduction in a matter so vitally affecting the interests of the people at large.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member agree to the principle, underlying the resolution, at least?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No, I cannot.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is the member agreeable to a reduction of at least one per cent.?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not the resolution.

I am now speaking on the resolution before the House. Sir, the Government have done all they can to help the people. They have given an extra amount this year for loans. They have given Rs. 3½ lakhs under ordinary loans, and also another lakh specially to the *Kuttanad* ryots.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): When is the loan to the *Kuttanad* ryots to be repaid? In other words, what is the time granted to them?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The loans have to be repaid only by the end of this year.

Rs. 82,000, out of this one lakh of rupees, has already been disbursed.

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha*): What has become of the balance?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): My figures are up to the end of six months. I presume a good portion of the balance would also have been disbursed since; because, several of the Tahsildars are now applying for additional grants under ordinary and special loans.

On the last occasion, the question was raised about the tom-tom charges. I may say that the Government are not at all satisfied with the present position in regard to these tom-tom charges; and the matter is being looked into. We will see if it cannot be reduced to the same rate as that paid by the High Court. We do not know how the present rates were fixed originally. Government have absolutely no idea of making any profit in the matter. The matter will be gone into and what is possible will be done.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Are the Government willing to make a complete remission of at least one year's demand notice fees?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot say that off-hand. The member can put in his request; and, as I said, Government are very sympathetic in the matter and will do all that can be done in these days of economic depression. But, I may draw the attention of the member to one important aspect of the matter, namely, that these demand notices are issued only to defaulters who cause extra work by their default.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The member said that for the latter half of 1106, the demand notice fee was remitted. I wish to know whether the Government have issued orders to the Peishkars that the amounts collected for that period might be remitted by adjusting them towards the tax due for this year?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If I remember right, there are orders to that effect.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): When was that order issued?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the number and date of the G. O. I may inform the member that it was issued towards the close of the last year. Unfortunately, I have not got the number and date of the G. O.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I inform the member that, on the ground that no such order has been issued, they are trying to realise demand notice fees, not realised last year, as old arrears?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): On a point of order, Sir. Questions are generally asked for getting information. Can a Question be asked for giving information. That is what the member now seeks to do.

PRESIDENT: Ordinarily, questions should be asked only to get information.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If any specific instance is brought to my notice, I shall enquire into it.

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I may inform the House, Sir, that, on a reference by the Quilon Dewan Peishkar, Government have recently repeated the instructions in the matter.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I think I have clearly shown the House that the Government have done all that they possibly could have done and much more than any other Government, to help the people in this time of economic depression. If the House passes this resolution, and if it is given effect to, it would put not only the Government into a very difficult position, but all this extra allotment that has been asked for by the people is not likely to be granted. It will be impossible for the Government to do it. I therefore hope that, in the circumstances, the member will withdraw his resolution.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Does the member think that the present Remission Rules are satisfactory?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not had time to consider the matter. If the member will put forth any suggestion to improve the Rules, we would be glad to consider them.

MR. K. I. KOCHIPPAN MAPPILLAI (*Nominated*): സർ, ഭാഗ്യവശം ആശാൻ അവാർക്കളുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ചില വ്യത്യസ്തതയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. നാട്ടിലുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ വേണ്ടുവണ്ണം പരിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നും, അതിലേയ്ക്കു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറുചെയ്തു കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നും ഉള്ള അഭിപ്രായക്കാരനാണ് ഞാൻ. സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനംകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും കൃഷിവാഴ്ച ലഭിക്കുന്നതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള പ്രയാസങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും, എന്നുവേണ്ട ഇങ്ങനെ അനേകം സംഗതികളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിനൊക്കെയും പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കാനായി ഒരു സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതനക്കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. മുരക്കം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആ കമ്മിറ്റിക്ക് 'അധിപതനക്കമ്മിറ്റി' എന്നു പേരു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നും അതു വളരെ അനപത്ഥമായിരിക്കുമെന്ന പ്രകാരത്തിലാണ് ഈ കമ്മിറ്റി ഇരിക്കുന്നത്. ആ കമ്മിറ്റി എന്തു ചെയ്തു, അതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്രത്തോളം പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടായി, എന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കറിയാൻ ഇതുവരെ സൗകര്യമുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ലോകത്തിന്റെ ഗതി മറ്റൊരു വിധത്തിൽ മാറുമ്പോൾ ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ഗതി, നാട്ടിലുള്ളവർക്കു മനസ്സിലാകത്തക്കവണ്ണമെങ്കിലും ഇടവരുമൊ എന്നു സംശയിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം അതിന്റെ ഗതി അത്ര മന്ദമായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഒരെ ഇനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വരുത്തുന്ന നഷ്ടം ശരിയായിരിക്കുമോ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനു ഒരു നിവാരണം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ചില വ്യത്യസ്തതയോടുകൂടി ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞത്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും വലിയ പ്രയാസംകൂടാതെയുള്ള രീതിയിൽ പല പദ്ധതികളും ആലോചിച്ചാൽ ഉണ്ടാകും. കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ അതൊക്കെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. പ്രമേയത്തിൽ പറയുന്ന സംഗതികൾ അനുവദിക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം ഗവണ്മെൻറുവരവിൽ ശരിയായ കണക്കു ഞാൻ കൂട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല.

[Mr. K. I. Kocheeppan Mappillai.]

കിലും ഉദ്ദേശം പത്തുപക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ കുറവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഊഹിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരിനത്തിൽ വലുതായ കുറവുവരുത്തുന്നതു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ക്ഷേമമായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു എന്നു വെച്ചാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കുപയോഗപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണെന്നുവേണം വിചാരിക്കാൻ. ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ഒപ്പുമാമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതിൽ വലിയ അബദ്ധമില്ല. ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള കുറവു വരുത്തുന്നതിനെ പ്രതികൂലിച്ചും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം നിമിത്തം വന്നിരിക്കുന്ന പല കഷ്ടതകൾക്കും മറുവിധേന പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടും ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ മൂലതത്വത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നു.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): മെമ്പർ ഒരു ഭേദഗതി ഹാജരാക്കുകയായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും?

MR. K. I. KOCHEPPAN MAPPILLAI (*Nominated*): ഞാൻ എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം പറയുകയായിരുന്നു.

RAO BAHADUR A. VENKATARAMA AIYAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Sir, the resolution before the Council is to recommend the reduction of a moiety of the land revenue of this State. All seem to be agreed that there is acute economic depression in the State; and I think even the spokesman of Government admitted that. The Chief Secretary to Government, who spoke on the last occasion and also Mr. Robinson have admitted that.

As Mr. Robinson put it, Government must be taken to be the *karanavan* of a *tarwad*, the *tarwad*, being the State of Travancore. The people of Travancore are the members of the *tarwad*. It is well known that the duties of the *tarwad* are to look to the interests of the *tarwad*. The question that the House has to decide now is whether the recommendation contained in the resolution would be to the benefit of the *tarwad*.

Now, so far as land revenue in Travancore is concerned, there are lands which were settled at the time of the Settlement, and there are also other lands which have since been brought under cultivation. The rate of assessment is therefore, not uniform.

Further, we are now in the middle of the year and a good portion of the tax has already been paid. How the persons, who have already paid the tax due for the current year, are to be affected, has also to be considered.

It has also to be borne in mind that, on account of the fall in the prices of agricultural products, a pretty large slice out of the produce

from the land, has, in most cases, to be shelled out for the payment of tax; and in some cases the income from the land is hardly sufficient for the full payment of land tax.

Under these circumstances, I do not think I can agree to the proposal contained in the resolution in its present form. What I would suggest to Government is to revise the Remission Rules and to lay down that only two forms of remission would be allowed, one seasonal and the other non-seasonal.

So far as seasonal remissions are concerned, they are confined to particular taluks alone. They are based upon either the withering away of the crops for want of rain, or the non-cultivation of land for similar reasons, or a change in the form of cultivation, as, for instance, raising dry crops in wet lands. These are the three cases where seasonal remission could be allowed. There are also non-seasonal remissions. The amount of remissions that has been allowed in recent years is high. That is what I find from the latest *Administration Report*. A reduction of Rs. 79,000 cannot be said to be insignificant. All the same, I think the Rules have to be revised. Till then, independently of the Rules, individual applications for remission may also be considered by Government and liberal orders issued to the Revenue Department to see that, in really hard cases, remissions are allowed and the distress felt by the ryots relieved as much as possible. I think that would be the only way to relieve them. With this suggestion, I say that I am not for accepting the resolution in its present form.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (Nominated): സർ, പത്തൊമ്പതു ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ ഒരു ഇനത്തിൽ തന്നെ കുറവുവരുന്ന ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പെട്ടെന്നു അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായമായ രീതിയല്ലെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നു. ധാരാളം കരം ഒട്ടക്കൂടുവരാൻ കരംകൊടുക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല, ഒരു ഭാഗം ഇളച്ചുതരണം എന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നത്. അധികൃതരുടെ കഥ നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവർ ഭൂമിയുമില്ല, കരവുമില്ല. ആ കാരണത്താലാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതെന്ന് ആരും ചിന്തിക്കുകയില്ലെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ധനവാന്മാർ ഭൂമി ധാരാളമായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് കരംകൊടുക്കാൻ അവർ പ്രയാസം നേരിടുന്നത്.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (Changanacherry cum Peer made): ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഈ സംഖ്യ കിട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അധികൃതർ എങ്ങിനെ ലാഭമുണ്ടാകും?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (Nominated): ഈ ഭൂമി മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്താൽ അധികൃതർ ഭൂമി ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനിടയാവുകയും ഈ വലിയ നികുതിഭാരം ധനവാന്മാരിൽനിന്നും കുറെ

[Mr. N. John Joseph.]

നീക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ധനവാന്മാരുടെ കൈവശമുള്ള ഭൂമിമുഴുവൻ കൃഷിചെയ്യുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ധാരാളം ആദായം കിട്ടും. ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റേ ചെല്ലേണ്ട നികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്റേ വിഷമവുമില്ല. ഈ ഒരു കാരണക്കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ കരം ഇളച്ചുതരണമെന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നവർക്ക് ഇളച്ചുകൊടുക്കരുതെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. മിസ്റ്റർ കൊച്ചിപ്പൻ മാപ്പിള പറഞ്ഞ പ്രകാരം ഒരു ഇനത്തിൽ നിന്നുതന്നെ ഇത്രയും ഭീമമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ കറയ്ക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഗവണ്മെന്റു നടത്തേണ്ട മറ്റുസംഗതകൾക്കു ഒരുടവുതട്ടാനിടയുണ്ട്. ധനഭൗർല്ലഭ്യംനമിത്തം കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു രാജ്യത്തു പ്രധാനമായ പല സംഗതികളും ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ധനമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ പല മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഗവണ്മെന്റു അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതൊന്നും പറ്റിയ മാർഗ്ഗമല്ല. ഏതായാലും ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ കാരണത്താൽ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ എനിക്കു അനുകൂലിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): അധ്യക്ഷൻ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കിടപ്പു കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): അല്ലെങ്കിൽ എങ്കിലും കരംകൊടുക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത നിലയിലില്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): കുറച്ചെങ്കിലുംകരുണാ

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഉണ്ട്.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): അവർക്കു കരം കൊടുക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): കൃഷി ചെയ്തവർക്കു കരംകൊടുക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): അപ്പോൾ അധ്യക്ഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കരക്കുറവു ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണോ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നത്?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): അങ്ങനെ തന്നെയാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, Mr. Robinson told us that the Travancore State is a *tarwad* and that all the members of the *tarwad* should help the *karanavan* in managing it. All that, we see fully well. But when the *anantaravans*, or the members of the *tarwad*, are in great distress, we expect the *karanavan* also to sympathetically listen to them when they approach him and tell him

"*Ammava*, (Uncle—we call him *ammavan*) we used to give you certain measures of paddy and certain sums of money every year in the past. This time it is not possible for us to give you the full amount of money and the full measure of paddy. You must make a reduction", and not to tell them when they ask the *karanavan* to reduce 50 per cent., "No, you cannot ask for that. I will not grant you *any* reduction." I expect the *karanavan*, if he is really sympathetic, to consider their grievances and to say, "Well, I do not see my way to reduce 50 per cent. as you want me to do; but I shall reduce a smaller percentage. Let me think about it and see what can be done." That attitude I can understand on the part of a *karanavan*. He should not take advantage of what may be termed a technical defect due to the wording of the resolution, due to the high demand it makes. That is not what a good *karanavan* should do; but that is what Mr. Robinson says the Government would do now. That is hard and unfair.

Sir, I am a member of the Retrenchment Committee and I have heard a good deal of complaint about the tardy way in which the committee is doing its business. That is due to many causes. It is constituted of officials and non-officials. Officials have their other business, and non-officials too have their own other business. I may say, that the delay in the completion of the work is due more largely to the official element in the committee. I do not blame them. I know they have a good deal of other important work to do in the same manner as non-officials have. But due to their other work very often it may be a session of the Popular Assembly or a meeting of the Legislative Council—the work of the committee is being delayed to some extent. The members of the committee also regret the delay. We are trying our best to finish our work soon. Being a member of the committee myself, I have my own difficulties to take a definite stand in regard to this question. I know there *are* difficulties so far as the Government are concerned. But I cannot listen to Government when they tell us, "You see, we are short of money. How shall we carry on the Administration if we listen to you and grant your request." For that, I must tell them, "Well, you spend our money mostly in ways *you* like. You do not consult us in every matter involving expenditure." In regard to a good portion of the expenditure that Government incur, I know they have absolutely no right to claim that the expenditure *has* to be incurred and cannot be avoided. Under such circumstances, the argument that the Government are short of money cannot hold water. That is not an answer to the demand now made from this side of the House. Until the system of Government is completely changed, that plea cannot be accepted as satisfactory. Even in regard to the Retrenchment Committee, it is not every item of expenditure that is referred to the committee. There *are* several matters which are beyond the purview of the committee and many of such matters will admit of retrenchment. In these circumstances, Government cannot tell us that we must see eye to eye with them, realise their financial difficulties, and not ask for remissions. The fact that they have constituted a committee for retrenchment, or

[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

the fact that their revenues are falling will not be a full answer to the demand now raised by my friend, Mr. Asan. I fully realise the situation. Government are also in difficulties. But they ought to see that all unnecessary items of expenditure are done away with. They should not incur unnecessary additional expenditure. To our great regret, we find, Sir, that, even in these hard times, when we have a Retrenchment Committee to suggest the reduction of pay, reduction in the number of appointments, and reduction even in the allotment for the P. W. Department, Government, from the other side, are incurring unnecessary additional expenditure. That is a matter which the Government have to bear in mind. If the Government do everything in a way satisfactory to the people, I am sure the reasonable section among the people, the better section of the people, would always stand by their side. But we find that a lot of expenditure is even now being incurred by Government on what we consider to be absolutely unnecessary, matters which, at all events, can afford to wait for better days. Under these circumstances, Mr. Robinson has not done well in saying that no relief could be given to the poor ryot.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I correct the member? I did not say that Government are not prepared to relieve the ryot. I said that they were doing all that they can.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): This is not the first time, Sir, I hear that answer. Whenever we say that Government ought to do something in some particular direction, they say that everything possible is being done in that particular direction. But Mr. Robinson has clearly stated that he cannot listen to Mr. Asan when he suggests the remission of 50 per cent. He is not prepared for any reduction at all; nor is he prepared to state what reduction Government are prepared to make. From the point of view of a Government official representing Government as he does, probably Mr. Robinson has done his very best. But from our point of view, I may say that his reply is not satisfactory at all.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Does the member suggest that because the Government are not behaving properly the revenue should be remitted?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I should have been expressing my ideas very poorly indeed if I really have given room for that interpretation being put upon my words by any reasonable gentleman. I do not think my statements could lead to that inference. There may be economic difficulties so far as Government are concerned. But there are difficulties also so far as the people are concerned. My complaint is that the Government are not spending money in the proper direction. They are incurring unnecessary and uncalled-for expenditure. That is why the answer from Government does not come with good grace. The statement that they cannot think of making any remission whatsoever does not at all sound well.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): May I know what is the avoidable expenditure that the Government are now incurring?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): If I am permitted to answer that question, Sir, I am sure I can very well convince this House—or any other House, for that matter, composed of reasonable men—that the Government are incurring unnecessary and unreasonable expenditure on matters which can very well wait, which we can do without. May I answer that question, Sir?

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, coming to my point, merely to say that they have appointed a Retrenchment Committee and have done this and that, does not count much in answer to the very reasonable demand that has now been made. Then, Sir, the further questions that have to be considered are, whether this 50 per cent. reduction is reasonable or not, and whether this is exactly the demand the representatives of the people should make to relieve the people. Sir, Mr. Robinson is responsible to Government for the collection of income-tax as much as he is for the collection of land revenue. In the case of people who are paying income-tax, because their incomes are low now, they are asked to pay only reduced tax now. In the case of agriculturists, a man who made 300 rupees two years ago and paid a certain sum as tax has to pay the same tax even now though the income is much less.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know from the member whether any agriculturist has ever paid additional tax to Government in proportion to the increase in yield?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, the member must realise that we are now dealing with abnormal conditions.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): May I draw the attention of the member to the present tariff rates?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I will come to that. I think I have to explain first the unsound view Mr. Robinson takes of the matter, before I come to the question of tariff rates. Sir, Mr. Robinson must bear in mind that the land tax has been fixed with reference to the yield. It may vary with seasonal conditions. If an agriculturist gets ten *paras* more in one year, he may get ten *paras* less next year. All that has not to be taken into account.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I inform the member that the price of the food-stuffs—cocoanut, paddy, etc.—are now very much better than they were at the time of the Settlement.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But, are not the various items of expenditure which the agriculturist has to incur very much more now than before? If prices have gone up, has not the cost of labour also gone up? Has not the price of manure also gone up?

[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai].

I am sure the Director of Agriculture will bear me out in my statement. I strongly support the principle of the resolution. The ryots do stand in need of help. Last year, Government said that compulsory sales of land for arrears of tax would be stopped till the end of the year but I know that sales *did* take place even after that statement was made by Government and before the end of the year.

PRESIDENT : Your time is up, Mr. Thanu Pillai.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (Nominated): സർ, സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതിനും കൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ ആർക്കും തന്നെ അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസത്തിനവകാശമില്ല. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു സഹായം ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കടമയുമാണ്. മി. താണുപിള്ള പ്രസംഗാവസാനത്തു മി. ദാമോദരനാശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൽത്താങ്ങുന്നു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിൽ ധാരാളം അർത്ഥം അടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. പരമാർത്ഥതയിൽ പ്രമേയത്തിലടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള തത്വം നല്ലതുതന്നെയാണ്. എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു സഹായം ഭൂമികൃതിയിനത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ മി. ആശാന്റെ അഭിപ്രായ പ്രകാരമുള്ള ഒരു സംഖ്യ കുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രായോഗികമല്ല എന്നുള്ള ഒരുഭിപ്രായം മി. താണുപിള്ളയുടെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടാണ് പ്രമേയത്തെ അതൈത്രപത്തിൽ പിൻതാങ്ങാതെ അതിന്റെ തത്വത്തെ മാത്രം മി. താണുപിള്ള ആദരിച്ചത് എന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഇതൈത്രപത്തിൽ അനുകൂലിക്കാൻ ആർക്കും തന്നെ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ൫൦ ശതമാനം ഭൂമികൃതികുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ പാസാക്കി കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ തന്നെ വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണ്.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha) : ഭൂമികൃതി എത്ര ശതമാനം കുറച്ചു കൊടുത്താൽ ശരിയായിരിക്കും?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (Nominated) : എന്തുകുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ആലോചിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli) : മെമ്പർമാരെ യുക്തം പോലെ ഒരു ഭേദഗതികൊണ്ടു വന്നാൽ അതു ഇവിടെ സ്വീകരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു മെമ്പർമാർ ഉറപ്പുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (Nominated) : അതു സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ മനസ്സുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും അതു സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ ഇടയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): അതെന്തുകൊണ്ടാണ്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി മുൻകൂട്ടി അറിവുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അനുമതി ലഭിക്കണം. ഭൂനികുതികുറയ്ക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു അതനുവദിക്കുമെന്നു എനിക്ക് വിശ്വാസവുമില്ല.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ തന്നെ വാടപ്രതിവാടത്തിനു വന്നതല്ലേ ഈ പ്രമേയം?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും കൂടുതൽ വിഷയം എടുത്തു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു കടമപ്പെട്ടവരും ജനങ്ങൾ തങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളവരുമായ മെമ്പർമാർ ഈ വഹിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചു.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): മെമ്പർമാർ ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാതിനിധ്യമില്ലേ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): എനിക്കു ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാതിനിധ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ ചിലർ തയ്യാറില്ലാത്തതു കൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഇതിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുകയുണ്ടെന്നു എന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് അമൻറുമെൻറു അയക്കാതിരുന്നതാണ്.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): മെമ്പർമാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായമെന്താണ്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം ഞാൻ പലപ്പോഴും ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കള്ളുഷാപ്പു കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർക്കു അവർ അടയ്ക്കേണ്ട പണം കുറച്ചുകൊടുത്തു എന്നു മെമ്പർമാർക്കറിയാമോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടവർക്കു കുറച്ചുകൊടുത്തു എന്നറിയാം.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ജനങ്ങളെ നശിപ്പിച്ചു ലാഭം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന കള്ളുഷാപ്പു കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർക്കു പണം കുറച്ചുകൊടുത്താലും സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഭൂനികുതി കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ മെമ്പർമാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു കരം കുറച്ചുകൊടുത്തുകൂടാ എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ല എന്നു മെമ്പർ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയാൽ ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കൊന്നും അവകാശമില്ല. കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു കരം കുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്; എന്നാൽ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന

[Mr. P. S. Mahomed.]

പകുതി കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രായോഗികമല്ല എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത്.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): എത്ര കുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു മെമ്പർ ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): എന്റെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ അതുണ്ട്. അതിവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ല.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): പ്രയോജനമില്ല എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ അർത്ഥമെന്താണ്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഈ നിലയിലിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയത്തിന് അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഭേദഗതി വരുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ മെമ്പർ പിൻ താങ്ങുന്നില്ലെ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഇല്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): എത്ര ശതമാനം കുറച്ചാൽ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങാം?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതിപ്പോൾ ചോദിക്കേണ്ട ചോദ്യമല്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ഭേദഗതി വരുത്താൻ വേണ്ടി ചോദിക്കയാണ്.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഭേദഗതി നടപ്പിൽ വരികയില്ല.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തക്കവണമുള്ള ഭേദഗതിയായാലോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അങ്ങിനെ എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു കൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽ ഞാൻ വോട്ടുചെയ്യാം.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): പ്രമേയത്തിൽ ൨൦ ശതമാനമെന്നാക്കിയാലോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതു കൂടുതലാണ്.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ൨൦ ശതമാനമാക്കിയാലോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതും കൂടുതലാണ്.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ൧൦ ശതമാനമാക്കിയാലോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അതും കൂടുതലാണ്.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ഗുണഭോക്താക്കൾക്ക് എന്തു നഷ്ടം?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): കഷ്ടിച്ചു സമ്മതിക്കാം (ചിരി). ആ രീതിയിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുക പ്രമേയമായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ എനിക്ക് അനുകൂലിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമായിരുന്നു.

MR. R. S. SUBRHAMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ഈ നടപ്പിൽ വരികയില്ല എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കിയാണോ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നത്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഒരു സംഗതിയുടെ എല്ലാവശവും നോക്കിയാൽ അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുമോ ഇല്ലയോ എന്നുള്ളത് കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ ബുദ്ധിമാന്മാരായ ആളുകൾക്ക് വിഷമമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): അനന്തിരവരായ പ്രജകളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായ നമ്മൾ ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം പാസ്സാക്കിയാൽ അതു കാരണവനായ ഗവണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): കാരണവൻറെയും അനന്തിരവൻറെയും ബന്ധത്തെ ഞാനിവിടെനോക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR (*Pattanamitta*): ഗവണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയം മാത്രമെ കൊണ്ടുവരാവൂ എന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സൗകര്യമുള്ള പ്രമേയമെ നാം കൊണ്ടുവരാവൂ.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): ഗവണ്മെൻറു തീർച്ചയായും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുമെന്നു മെമ്പർ വിശ്വാസമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ മാത്രമെ മെമ്പർ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരാറുള്ളൂ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാ എന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യം വരുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ അതു നിർബന്ധിക്കാറില്ല.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I rise to a point of order. I think questions should be addressed to the Chair.

PRESIDENT: Technically, questions should be addressed to the Chair. The idea is, that, even though questions and cross questions may be exchanged between the members themselves, they are really addressed to the Chair.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഗവണ്മെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കേണ്ടതും ജീവിഷയങ്ങൾ മാത്രമല്ല ഇവിടെകൊണ്ടുവരാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതും. നാം ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു പ്രവൃത്തി രൂപത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലെന്നു കാണുന്നപക്ഷം അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവകൊണ്ടുവന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയൊ മറ്റുസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളേയൊ വിഷമിപ്പിച്ചു കൂടാത്തതാകുന്നു.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി മെമ്പർ ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഒരു സംഗതിയുടെ പരമാത്മ മറിയാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറുമായിട്ടു ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നില്ല.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ഇതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലെന്നു മെമ്പർ നിശ്ചയിച്ചതെങ്ങിനെയാണു്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഇതു സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നു മെമ്പർ മനസ്സിലാക്കാത്തതു് അതിന്റെ ഏല്പാവശങ്ങളേയുപറ്റി മെമ്പർ ആലോചിക്കാത്തതിന്റെ ഫലമാണു്.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറുമായി ആലോചിക്കാറില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് മെമ്പറോടു ചോദിച്ചതു്.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഗവണ്മെൻറുമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. മെമ്പർ തന്നത്താനെ ആലോചിച്ചാൽ ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംശയത്തിനിടവരികയില്ല.

അതിനാൽ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഇതേരൂപത്തിൽ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതിൽ വ്യസനിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ വരമിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I wish to add a few words to the discussion. There is some truth in the statement that the resolution as it is worded gives a handle to the Government to make it appear that we are proposing something extraordinarily impossible for them to accept. That is the defect of the resolution. But the principle of the resolution cannot but be accepted by a Government who concedes that there is acute economic depression in the State, and who also concedes that the Government is in the position of a benevolent *karanavan*. I think Mr. Asan will be willing to make a reduction which will appear more reasonable to all people, so that the resolution may get a large amount of support. Otherwise, it will give a handle to people who want to vote against the resolution, as they may say that this is a very extraordinary resolution, and that the 50 per cent.

reduction is quite an impracticable proposition to accept. I believe the mover of the resolution will not give such an easy handle for the resolution to be voted out.

One point I wish to answer which the Law Member asked by way of a question. He asked Mr. Thanu Pillai whether it was in the way of a punishment to the Government for misbehaviour that a reduction in the land revenue was now being proposed. To a certain extent, it is. We have got a justification in proposing this reduction of 50 per cent. We find that Government, in these extraordinarily difficult times, are acting in a way which does not occur to us to be actuated by a real feeling for the welfare of the people. If we had been convinced that Government had taken every possible step to reduce expenditure and to conserve finances, the question certainly arises whether we can irresponsibly propose a cut like this. But, Government have been absolutely negligent in that direction. Even among the items of expenditure that are within the purview of this Council—not to speak of the large amounts spent on matters outside the purview of this Council—even on the pay and allowances of officers now being paid, *after* the economic depression set in and *after* the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee was appointed, we can show instances after instances where an increase has been made. Mr. Robinson put a question whether any other Government has done so much for its people as the Government of Travancore. The Chief Secretary in his speech said that there are only two ways of balancing a Budget. One is, he admitted, by reducing expenditure. My question is, have the Government of Travancore done as much for the reduction of expenditure as the Governments of other countries have done? Have they taken prompt measures of retrenchment as other Governments have done? Even in the matter of appointing a Retrenchment Committee, were they not the last? Have they made any reduction in the pay of officers even after the Viceroy announced a voluntary reduction of *his* pay? Has the pay of the Dewan or his allowances been reduced voluntarily or by the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee? These are very pertinent questions, and the natural answers to them convince us that Government, so far as the curtailing of expenditure—which is a very necessary item to tide over a difficult period like this—is concerned, have not taken sufficiently drastic steps. They are only taking very vigorous steps to squeeze out money from the people. We wish to tell the Government that even for them to go on squeezing, even for the policy of squeezing to be successful, they must allow some life-blood to remain in the people so that they may squeeze out in future also. I know Mr. Asan, as the representative of the people, seeing the worst of their miseries, seeing the exactions of the revenue collecting agencies, has worded his resolution with a lot of emotion. The defect in the wording is due to that. He felt that the people were being ground down; and he wanted to give them some relief. He naturally thought that a 50 per cent. remission would save them. Mr. Krishna Pillai put a question to Mr. Robinson, whether at least one per cent. remission would be allowed by the Government and Mr. Robinson said "No." He stands on technical grounds.

[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

That is not the spirit which we expect from the Government. That is not the spirit that the people of the country expect from those who are their paid servants and who administer the country, obviously for the benefit of the people. If the Government have made all the reductions that are humanly possible, and if, even after that, such a resolution was brought forward, I could understand them saying that this cut would place them in a difficult position as a result of which they would not be able to run the Government. We could have understood the force of the argument then. But Government have not done that. My main criticism is that they have not reduced expenditure to the marginal point, which they ought to have done especially in view of the fact that they *concede* that the people are also suffering to a great extent. With these few words, I support the principle of the resolution, and request Mr. Asan to reduce the percentage so that it may be possible for *all* to vote for it.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peerimade*): എത്ര ശതമാനമാക്കണമെന്നാണ് മെമ്പറുടെ അഭിപ്രായം?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Personally, I would like to propose not less than 15 per cent. I think that would be reasonable.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ൨൦ ശതമാനമാക്കിയാൽ മെമ്പർമാർ സമ്മതമാണോ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Even if it is 20 per cent, I have no objection; and as for that matter, I am going to vote for this resolution even as it is. Fifteen per cent. will be a very legitimate and reasonable reduction; and I think Government also will accept it.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I support the principle of this resolution. Whatever may be urged by members on the other side of the House, I maintain that the economic depression and the heavy fall in the prices of agricultural products have a more telling effect upon the *people* than upon the *Government*. It may be argued that the Retrenchment Committee, which is applying its axe to all the Departments of the Government, has not done full justice to the work allotted to it. Posts of doubtful utility are still retained. When the work of the various Departments is getting slackened, and when works of public utility are also in a very slackened condition, most of these posts are retained on the same grade of salary. I may bring to the notice of the Government that whatever remissions may be given to the agriculturists, the land revenue is always a charge upon the land, and should always be proportionate to the income derived from the land. Now, the position of the land-holders is certainly much worse than the position of most other people; the income derived from land is much less since the prices of agricultural products have gone down to a greater extent than the prices of other products. Therefore, whatever may be the arguments advanced by the Government at this stage, it only behoves the ryots to ask for concessions. I fully support the resolution.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is the *pattam* per cocoanut tree in the Shertallai taluk?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): It varies.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): On an average and approximately?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I am only speaking of the actual yield. That does not depend on the *pattam*.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is the member aware what the *pattam* now is and what it was two years ago? I am merely asking for information.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I think the *pattam* now is not much different from the *pattam* three years ago.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do the owners of gardens get the same amount of *pattam* now as they were getting some years ago?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): No; it has gone down.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What was it four years ago, and what is it now? I want to know the proportion of the reduction.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): I would request the Law Member himself or the Land Revenue Commissioner for that matter to supply the information on that point.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to oppose the resolution. In doing so, I must make it clear to the House what the exact scope of the resolution is. The resolution reads, "This Council recommends to Government that in view of the present economic condition 50 per cent. of the land revenue be remitted" so that, the only question for the House to consider in this debate is whether, *in view of the economic depression*, the revenue should be remitted or not. There is no question of whether the Government have done as much as they could have done or should have done in relieving the hardship of the people. That is entirely beside the point. On the point involved in the resolution I wish to submit to the House that no case has been made out for remitting the land revenue. The revenue is fixed in relation to the produce of the land. That, I grant. But, at the same time, I must say that, in the case of the paddy lands, the tax was fixed in kind, as so many *paras* of paddy, at the time of the Settlement, and in the case of the cocoanut trees, as so many chuckrams per tree. And that has, no doubt, to be paid now also.

A distinction has been sought to be drawn between the income tax and the land tax. Income tax is always proportionate to the actual income, the income being calculated in money. A person getting an income of, say Rs. 1,000, has to pay a certain amount as income tax. If his income goes up he has to pay a greater amount as tax. That, no doubt, is not the case in regard to land tax: but all the same there is no reason why the land tax should be reduced because of the present

[MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI.]

economic depression and the reduced income. The bulk of the land revenue that is now charged on lands was charged at the time of the last Settlement which began in 1062 and ended in 1082. If you compare the price of paddy then and now, you will find that it is considerably more now. And, the tax is even now the same, in any event it has not been increased. For calculating the money value of the tax, the price of a *para* of paddy was fixed at 11 chs. at the time of the Settlement. I dare say, the price of a *para* of paddy is more than 11 chs. even now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What was the market price of paddy at the time this 11 chuckrams was fixed for the purpose of tax?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The average price was calculated about three fanams per *para* in 1082.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is it based on any authorised report?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is what I am told by the Land Revenue Commissioner. Surely, it could not have been less than 11 chuckrams.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What was the price of paddy per standard *para*, at the close of 1106, in the headquarters of the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions, and in the Mavelikara, Ambalapuzha and Tiruvella taluks?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): More than 13 chuckrams per standard *para*, I am informed.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I may refer the member to the Government statistics wherein it is said that the price was 12 chuckrams 8 cash per *para*.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Even then, the resolution cannot be accepted; because, the ryot has to pay only less than that. All that I am asserting is that the price of paddy is not less than eleven chuckrams even to-day.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): നാബിനാട്ടുമുതലായ തെക്കൻദിക്കുകളിൽ നെല്ല് പാറുന്നിന്നു എത്രവിലയാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnathnad*): പറയൂ മ. മ. ചുവപ്പു കരം തീക്കണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചുകാലത്തു കരംപിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളം എത്രയായിരുന്നു?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): എനിക്കിപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയമില്ല. എത്രയായിരുന്നു എന്നുമെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊള്ളാം.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): പത്തു രൂപയായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവ്. ഇപ്പോൾ അത് ൨൪ രൂപയായിട്ടു വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): അതെ.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഇപ്പോൾ അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം പത്തുരൂപയാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതവർക്ക് രൂപതീകരമായിരിക്കുമോ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is not the question now before the House.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has not the cost of cultivation increased?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It may have comparatively.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): What was the market price of cocoanuts in 1082?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Probably, three or four rupees a hundred.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): By fixing the commutation rate at 11 chuckrams per *para*, did not the ryots gain a distinct advantage at that time on account of the higher market prices then?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Is it not natural that the ryots would have adjusted their expenditure to the large surplus they were able to get on account of the difference between the market price and the commutation rate?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, quite likely. For that, the adjustment has now to be made elsewhere, say for example, by a reduction in the standard of living.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): What was the standard of life in 1082?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I cannot define it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the margin of profit that the cultivator was able to make in 1060?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have no information on that matter.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Does not the principle of taxation depend upon the ability of the ryot to pay?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The paddy lands were assessed last at the time of the last Settlement; and it is not the contention of the House that that rate is unreasonable. If that is so, I do not see any reason why the ryot should complain now on the ground of economic depression what amount of paddy was fixed as the tax then, that amount would even now, at the present price, pay the tax.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Does the Law Member realise that we are here concerned with human affairs and not with arithmetic?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I thought this House was a business house doing business here. Having regard to the scope of the resolution, the only question to consider is whether, in view of the economic depression, the tax should be reduced. By all means compare the prices of commodities. Has the price of paddy gone down below what it was at the time of the last Settlement when the present rate of assessment was fixed? If any member can prove that the price, with reference to which the tax was fixed, has gone down, then I can understand that the tax also must be reduced in proportion to that.

Next, take the case of garden lands. In regard to the cocoanut trees, the highest tax is 4 chuckrams; and that was fixed in 1012, about 95 years ago. Four chuckrams is the highest tax even to-day. But has not the price of cocoanuts increased?

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): But, have not the Government increased in proportion, the duty on cocoanut products?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not here concerned with the other sources of Government revenue.

The land tax imposed in respect of cocoanut trees in 1012 was 4 chuckrams; and the same tax was fixed again in 1061. During all these years, has not the price of cocoanut increased?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Ayastisvaram*): Has not the value of a rupee increased ten (10) times now than it was in the past?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That does not arise for the purpose of the present debate. The only question is whether the price of cocoanut has gone below even 10 fanams now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): According to the Law Member, am I to understand that the present economic condition of the cultivator as compared with what it was before the depression and his ability to pay now do not count at all in regard to the question

of tax he has to pay. Is it only the comparative prices at the time of the Settlement and now that are to be taken into account for this purpose? Is that his position?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, the question is whether, *because* of the present depression, the tax should be reduced. That is the only question now before the House.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Has the economic depression increased the paying capacity of the ryot?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Nor has his paying capacity gone down having regard to the wherewith intended to pay the tax. Even if his actual income has gone down the adjustment has to be made elsewhere. If, when coconut was selling at a higher rate, Dr. Madhavan Pillai was travelling in a motor car he must give it up now when the price has gone down but must not complain that the land tax has become too burdensome.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is that the position of the benevolent *karanavan*?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): He is the head in the *tarwad* and he must maintain every member of the *tarwad*. That is his paramount duty.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Maintain them, by giving them arguments instead of food and clothing.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the members do not realise the real situation he must satisfy them by arguments, of course.

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha*): Has not the export duty on *copra* been increased?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): We are not concerned with export duty or import duty now. We are concerned only with land revenue. Having regard to the produce of the land, and having regard to the present prices, the charge on the land has not become excessive at all. If it is possible to make out that it has become excessive, then I can understand that the tax should be reduced.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I am sorry that even some of the non-official members feel that the demand I have made is too high or somewhat impracticable. Opposition was first raised by the Chief Secretary, and I shall meet the arguments advanced by him. He said that there was a deficit Budget, and that therefore it was not proper to ask for a remission of tax at this time as that was likely to embarrass the Government to a very large extent. Sir, probably that is the attitude of the Government when it views at these matters quite detached from the condition of the people. This economic depression has affected the people of the State to a much larger extent than the Government; and it is only as a consequence, though remote, of the difficulties experienced

[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

by the people that there is some reduction in the revenues of Government. The Chief Secretary has been saying "Sometimes you ask for the abolition of tolls; at other times you ask for a reduction of the tariff values; and now you ask for a reduction of tax. How can the Government satisfy all these demands?" Of course, I can understand this argument if it comes from a *karanavan* who is not very keen about the condition of the *anantaravans*. If the *anantaravans* ask for some cloth, he will not give. If they ask for food, he will say, "Why do you ask for cloth and then ask for food also". If he wants some money for educational purposes, the *karanavan* will say, "No, no, you have asked for cloth, then for food, and now you want money". Sir, is this *karanavan* going to give us anything after all, I ask? We have been asking for the abolition of the tolls, reduction of tariff duties, etc. But, have the Government done anything till now?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether the *karanavan*—

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Let me first of all finish my speech, Sir. The time at my disposal is limited. If the Chair would give me ample time, I have no objection to answer him.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ഗവണ്മെന്റ് നാമുമാവൻ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സൗജന്യങ്ങൾ അനന്തരവാക്ക് ചെയ്യുകൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നത് മക്കളായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പലത്താനല്ലെ? (ചിരി).

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not know whether they are the sons or the daughters of Government and so I cannot answer the question.

Perhaps, the Government may say that they have reduced the tariff values. Well, they have reduced the tariff values on certain articles. But they have also *increased* the tariff values in other cases and have also increased the customs duty on tobacco. The tariff value of *copra* has been reduced from Rs. 20 to Rs. 16 per cwt. But now, the market value is only below Rs. 10 per cwt. The other day, in reply to a supplementary question, put by my friend, Mr. Gopalakrishna Pillai, in regard to the ratio between the tariff value and the market value, the Government member said that he could not say that. There is a ratio between the tariff value and the market value. If the Government have reduced the tariff value by 20 per cent., I say, they have not reduced it to the extent to which the market value of the produce has fallen.

Another argument advanced by the learned Chief Secretary was that the Government had done all that they could in the matter and that they had given relief under so many heads. Of course, it was a long list; and if any one goes into the merits of the measures adopted, they could see that, all of them put together would not come to much. Sir, the last instalment, according to my information, of the tax for 1106 fell due in Edavam 1106. At the close of Mithunam, a G. O. was

issued to the effect that coercive steps should not be resorted to. That was, one and a half months after the last date on which the tax fell due; and, for these one and a half months coercive steps were freely resorted to. That G. O. was to be in force for one month. Afterwards, the Government, by another G. O. said that it was to be in force until further orders. And, in Tulam, three months afterwards, the Government withdrew the order. I asked Government at the last meeting whether the conditions of the ryots had improved in these three months to justify the Government withdrawing the G. O. suspending coercive action, already issued. The Land Revenue Commissioner, who was asked that question, said that he was not aware of any such order as he was then absent on leave. And, that G. O. was, after all, issued only *after* coercive action had been taken in more than 95 per cent. of the cases. The next concession given was that the demand notice fees were remitted. I know that, as a matter of fact, the fees that had been realised during the latter half of 1106, and which were promised to be adjusted towards the tax for 1107, has not yet been adjusted. The necessary orders have not yet been received by the Tahsildars, and it appears that the demand notice fees that have not been realised, on account of the G. O., are now being included as old arrears and that steps are being taken to realise them.

Then, another concession shown by the Government is with regard to the commutation price of paddy as regards the *Kandukrishi* lands. Sir, there were loud complaints with regard to payment in kind of *Kandukrishi* tax; and the Government fixed the commutation rate at six fanams per *para*, when the market rate was seven fanams. Last year, the Government records would show that the market price of paddy, in the taluks in which there are *Kandukrishi* lands, was only 12 chackrams and 8 cash. And, what was the reduction granted? Government reduced the rate from 24 to 18 chackrams.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Was not the payment of tax in kind allowed as an alternative?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I am coming to that. The first order was the reduction of the commutation rate to *eighteen* chackrams, when the market price was only *twelve* chackrams. Then the people said, "Why Sir, our old condition was much better. Just allow us to pay in kind; because we find it difficult to pay *eighteen* chackrams per *para* when the market price is only *twelve* chackrams." And then, Government allowed them to pay it in kind. In this matter also, the concession granted to the people was so bad that they had to pray again for the old order of things.

Another relief measure which was taken by Government is the establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank. I object to the Land Revenue Commissioner's statement that he does not know whether any money has been advanced by the Bank or not.

Sir, it has been stated that this is a very big order upon the Government to reduce 50 per cent. of their land revenue. Fifty per cent. of the tax, I also know, will come to about nineteen lakhs of rupees. But then, the total revenue of our Government is about two hundred

[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

and forty lakhs. The reduction I recommend does not come even to ten per cent.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The revenue has fallen to Rs. 215 lakhs.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Even if it is only Rs. 215 lakhs, my proposal would only be less than 10 per cent. of it.

The Law Member has been saying that the price of commodities, for purposes of tax, was fixed in 1082 or prior to that, that the prices of commodities had only increased since then, that even now the prices were not below what they were in 1082 and that, therefore, there was no reason for any complaint with regard to the land tax. Sir, in 1082, if I remember right, our total revenue was below a crore of rupees. So, the taxation per head was less than two rupees. What is the taxation per head now? It comes to five rupees. Who is to pay all these taxes? These taxes are all to be paid by the people. Without looking into that aspect of the question, the Law Member says that the *anantaravans* must feed upon arguments. That will not in any way save them from difficulties. That is what a heartless *karanavan* will do.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Will not the *anantaravans* be ruined if the *taxwad* becomes bankrupt?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): In the taxes are reduced, none of the officers of Government is going to be personally made liable for that. It is the people that would be affected by it. Our request is only to make them fit to pay higher taxes. Could they not get a remission when they are in need; and, when their condition improves higher taxes be realised from them?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is the member suggesting that the remission now to be granted could also be realised as arrears later when conditions improve?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): That is not it. When the Government are in difficulties, when there is a deficit, they go in for fresh taxation to make up the deficit. And, it is the people that pay you then. So, now, when the people are in difficulties, why not you help them so that they may be in a position to meet your demands later? You are keeping a milch cow. It is suffering from some disease. If you go on milking it without caring to cure it of its disease, what would be the result? You would be able to get milk only for a few days.

PRESIDENT: Your time is over.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I am allowed twenty minutes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Twenty minutes are allowed to the mover of a resolution only when he moves the resolution. I shall allow you three minutes more.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is Mr. Asan prepared to accept my amendment in regard to percentage?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): If the Government would bring forward an amendment to that effect, I am prepared to accept it. I do not know why I should lower my demand when the Government stubbornly say that they are not going to reduce even one per cent. Sir, Government is carried on in the interests of the people, and the first and foremost duty of the government is to see to the promotion of the welfare of the people. It has been stated that it is an extraordinary suggestion that I have now made; that nothing like this has been done in any other place, and that I am making a large order upon the Government. I told the Chief Secretary that 50 per cent. remission has been given in the Malaya States. That is my own information from reliable sources. Gentlemen who have to pay taxes in Federated Malaya States are now in Travancore, and it is from them that I came to know of that reduction. There has been a reduction of tax in the United Provinces also.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know what the chief crop in the Malaya States is? Is it paddy? Is it not rubber?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I know they carry on the cultivation of cocoanuts, rubber, paddy, oil palms and other things in the Malaya States; In French India also, the Government have voluntarily reduced 25 per cent.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether, in Cochin, there is any Retrenchment Committee?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I am not talking about the Retrenchment Committee. It is about the remission of taxes that I am now talking.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know the area of French India?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): How is that relevant?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is it more than five square miles?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Their revenue also will be proportionately small. The Government very often compare Travancore with the Government of India though the Indian Empire is several times larger than Travancore.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is the tax in French India?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It is one-eighth of the produce there.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is it payable in kind?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not know all details about it. The Law Member can ascertain it himself.

[Mr. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN.]

In the Central Provinces also, on 21.1.1932, the Legislative Council passed a resolution for the remission of 50 percent. in land tax. So, it is not an extraordinary proposal that I am now making in my resolution.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): What about our neighbouring Governments of Madras, Cochin and Mysore?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I am not aware whether they have granted such remissions.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether our Government have not remitted about Rs. 3 lakhs to the different toddy-shop contractors?

PRESIDENT: Do you want to reply, Mr. Robinson?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have nothing more to add, Sir.

The resolution was put to the vote and lost.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:—

AYES—21.

1 Mr. K. P. Abraham	12 Mr. K. P. Madhavan Pillai
2 Mrs. Anna Chandi	13 „ M. P. Madhavan Pillai
3 Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan	14 „ M. Mahomed Mustapha
4 „ K. Gopalakrishna Pillai	15 „ K. Narayanaperumal
5 „ Joseph Kunju	„ Nadar
6 „ K. P. Kochukora	16 „ A. Narayana Pillai
„ Tarakan	17 „ K. Padmanabha Panikkar
7 „ K. Krishnan Nayar	18 „ Rama Varma Raja
8 „ N. K. Krishna Pillai	19 „ R. S. Subrahmanya Pillai
9 „ S. Krishna Pillai	20 „ N. A. Sundaram Pillai
10 „ K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	21 „ A. Thanu Pillai
11 „ K. Madhavan Pillai	

NOES—23.

1 Mr. L. A. Bishop	13 Mr. E. G. McAlpine
2 „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai	14 „ R. Nilakanta Pillai
3 „ K. George	15 „ N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
4 „ M. Govindan	16 „ Kayalam Paramesvaran
5 „ N. John Joseph	„ Pillai
6 „ K. C. Karunakaran	17 Dr. K. Raman Tampi
7 „ K. I. Kocheppan	18 Mr. S. C. H. Robinson
„ Mappillai	19 „ C. N. Tuppan
8 „ A. Kumara Pillai	„ Namputiripad
9 Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan	20 „ R. Vaidyalingam Pillai
„ Pillai	21 Rao Bahadur A. Venkatarama
10 Mr. L. A. Lampard	„ Aiyar
11 „ C. O. Madhavan	22 Mr. P. Visvanatha Aiyar
12 „ P. S. Mahomed	23 „ J. S. Westerdale

NEUTRAL- 1.

1 Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar

The resolution was declared lost.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-49 P. M. and met again at 2-30 P. M., the Deputy President presiding.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In the absence of the Dewan, I take the Chair.

RESOLUTION RE ERECTION OF ELEVATED GROUNDS IN KUTTANAD.

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (Ambalapuzha): I beg to move the following resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that raised areas be provided in Kuttanad, at least two for each *pakuthi*, so that the inhabitants of these areas may find shelter during times of flood."

The low-lying areas in Central Travancore, comprised in thirteen taluks and extending over an area of one hundred and twelve square miles, have been subjected to disastrous floods in recent years. It has been noticed by the inhabitants of these areas during the past two decades that in recent years, the floods in these areas have been getting more serious and more devastating than in the past. In 1099, the floods were very high and caused devastations of homesteads, livestock and agricultural implements, and the people were put to intense suffering. Floods remained at a high level for one week and subsided only after that. Four years later, again, there was flood; but it did not come quite up to the level of the floods of 1099. Last year for a third time, we had this unwelcome visitation, and it remained for a very long time. It remained well-nigh one month. The effect of the flood was more disastrous than that in the previous year. It caused great suffering to men and cattle. The whole area of 120 square miles was under water. The water could not find proper way into the sea; and for this purpose, it was considered necessary to cut open a strip of land at Porakad between Ambalapuzha and Kartikapalli. But, that was not done, considering the existence of *punja* lands in the vicinity. It was feared that salt water might get in and do damage to the *punja* lands.

Again, the Travancore Chamber of Commerce put forward a proposal to cut open the western extremity of the Commercial canal at Alleppey. But this scheme was also considered not feasible. Other schemes were also thought of, but all of them were found unsuitable in some respect or other. Hence this proposal to raise two or three plots of ground in each *pakuthi* to afford shelter to human beings and livestock during floods.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (Agastisvaram): May I know whether this question ever engaged the attention of the Economic Development Board?

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